

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, which is directed to the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7. The claim also has been amended to overcome the rejection under §112. Claims 2-4, 9 and 11 have been cancelled, and a new claim 12 has been added.

In the embodiment of Figs. 6 and 7, there is a seat portion (2) and a nose portion (9). The trailing end of the nose portion is rebated (14) into the mid-part of the seat portion. A hinge that is flexible and laterally rigid connects the seat and nose.

As to the advantage of the subject invention, normal saddles with fixed "nose portions" like Fig. 9 of the prior art patent to Endo, have and are causing serious problems to many cyclists and discomfort to varying degrees. This is because during races or long periods of cycling, the nose portion applies undesirable pressure on the nerves and blood vessels to the penis which has its origin immediately in front of the anus and not where it projects from the body. This causes the problem. Pressure closer to the origin of the penis does more damage than pressure where the penis exits the body.

In the present invention, the nose portion can be downwardly deflected. The pressures necessary to deflect the nose portion are not great enough to cause the damage referred to above but the pressure may cause different discomfort during different riding conditions. This makes the adjustability of resilience of the nose as mounted to the seat desirable and this feature is set forth in one of the claims.

By using the seat of the invention the cyclist can make himself or herself comfortable and safe from damage while in the saddle and cycling.

Assistance in balancing the bicycle is provided because the flexibility of the nose portion of the saddle is only in the vertical plane. The nose portion remains rigid in the lateral plane at all times.

Main claim 1 of the application now includes the features of original claim 9. Claim 9 was rejected as anticipated by Endo, U.S. 5,863,094. The Examiner considers that Endo has a seat 2 and a nose 49 that corresponds to the seat and nose of claim 1 (actually claim 9).

In the present invention, as described at [0009], [0012] and [0017] of the publication of the application (US 2007/0069556), the nose portion 9 supports non-weight bearing portions of the body such as the organ of the rider.

In Endo, what the Examiner considers to correspond to the claimed nose portion (49) is rebated onto the outer portion of the seat. As described in Endo (column 1, lines 22-67 and referring to Fig. 9), the saddle of Endo is designed to support weight bearing portions of the body that were not supported by the conventional seat 7. Endo calls his elements 4a and 4b "saddle displacement members". As set forth in the Abstract of Endo, the purpose of these "saddle displacement members" is to disperse the weight of the rider. As shown in Figs. 4 and 6, the nose portion 49 supports the thighs.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 sets forth novel and advantageous subject matter that is neither taught nor suggested by Endo. Therefore, claim 1 is clearly patentable and should be allowed.

The other claims remaining depend from claim 1 and recite further features of the invention. Therefore, they also are patentable and should be allowed.

The other art cited has been considered and is not deemed pertinent.

Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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